(b) and (c) The National Sericulture Project (NSP) outlay of Rs. 555 crores includes credit component of Rs. 165 crores for on & of farm activities. The shortfall in credit flow under NSP is attributed largely to factors like defaults, inaligibility of bank branches to finance etc. However, the slow pace of credit flow has not resulted in a delay in establishing infrastructure, extension of mulberry acreage *etc.* envisaged under the project.

In order to speed up the credit flow under NSP, the Central Silk Board has organised a large number of workshops and orientation programmes.

Revival of Country's Jute Economy

785. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Wll the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered committee under chairmanship of the Secretary Ministry of Textiles has recommended a comprehensive policy package for the revival of the country's jute economy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the package and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The thrust of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee is that the future of the jute sector lies in the recognition of the full potential of jute as a fibre in diversified and applications. Technical advances and price factors render it impossible for the jute economy to sustain its existence on the production of packaging materials alone. It is, therefore, imperative for the jute sector to restructure itself. Diversification would help increase value realisation, production of intermediate raw materials like yarn and fabrics leading to higher employment in the decentralised sectors for production of variegated products. This would lead the renewed demand for jute fibre that would help farmers to realise more remunerative prices for their produce. The Committee has recommended Support for diversification through tnargin money assistance and tie up Arrangements in all allied fields viz; improvement in productivity and quality of raw jute, interface between Entrepreneurs and R&D institutions on the one hand and financial institutions And marketing channels on the other for transfer of technology etc.

Action has already been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Need for Upgradation of Technology for Export of Coir Products

786. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent development of geo-fabrics and coir bolymer composites have opened up new Avenues for export of coir products in a bigway; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have initiated to up-grade the technology with the changing export scenario indicating break-up during the last five years year-Vise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The export of Coir Geo-fabrics has shown a steady growth in the past few years, the figures for which are given below:

However, Poly Coir which is a new broduct developed in collaboration with the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum, has not yet been standardised and its production has also not been commercialised so far.

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	65.93
1991-92	144.93
1992-93 (April—Dec. 1992)	73.14

(b) The Coir Board and the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum are in the process of arranging technology transfer to commercially viable units, for the commercial production of Poly Coir. The expenditure so far incurred on the